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OFFICE OF THE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PRESS RELEASE

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Restitution Program helps Madera County Merchants
With Holiday Season Bad Checks

District Attorney Michael R. Keitz reminds all merchants the District Attorney's Bad Check Restitution Program is available to assist in seeking recovery for bad checks received in Madera County for goods or services.

Unfortunately for many merchants, the upcoming holiday shopping season may result in higher losses due to bad checks. Despite precautions in check acceptance policies, it is probable that some checks will be returned by the bank. Should a merchant be the recipient of a returned check which is eligible for the Bad Check Restitution Program, three steps are involved in accessing assistance through the program:

1. Contact the check writer and request repayment. If contact attempts are unsuccessful, mail a courtesy notice. The check writer has 10 days to respond and remit payment.

2. If payment is not received from the check writer, complete a crime report form which may be obtained from the Madera County District Attorney's Office website at: http://www.madera-county.com/district-attorney/, or by contacting the Merchant Care Hotline at 866-434-1417.

3. Mail the crime report; with the original returned check and any notification documents to the Madera County District Attorney Bad Check Restitution Program.

The Bad Check Restitution Program seeks recovery of the funds from the check writer. Upon recovery, 100% of the check face value is returned to the merchant. This program operates at no cost to participating merchants, taxpayers or the County of Madera, and has returned over $100,000 to victims of bad checks since inception in 2007.

Check eligibility and additional details about the program can be found in the website, or by contacting the Merchant Care Hotline.